abolished by the Government in public interest. Necessary action to reactivate the selection process is being taken expeditiously.

[Translation]

Drinking Water

2706. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of the villages of Bihar, particularly those of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts for formulating/commissioning the water supply schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work of the schemes is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.2.97 there were 6364 Not covered habitations and 24,050 Partially covered habitations in Bihar.

(c) All the Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations are expected to be provided with safe drinking water facilities by 1997-98 and 2000 AD respectively by the State Government.

[English]

Development and Welfare of Minorities

2707. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request has been made to the Prime Minister and also Chairman, Plannings Commission that specific allocation be made in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development and welfare of minorities, particularly in the sphere of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) A request has been made to the Prime Minister by the General Secretary, All India Janata Dal (Minority Committee), New Delhi, for an allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for education of Muslims in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) Ninth Five Year Plan which is now under formulation will give full weightage to this request.

[Translation]

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

2708. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation proposes to increase its activities abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the objectives in this regard;

(c) whether O.N.G.C. has signed or propose to sign any agreement with foreign Gas Companies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective is to enhance oil security for the country by acquiring equity oil abroad.

(c) to (e) ONGC Videsh Ltd. had farmed-in for exploration ventures in Egypt and Yemen with British Gas. Presently ONGC-VL has not signed any agreement with any foreign gas companies.

[English]

Oil Depots

2709. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Karnataka where Oil Depots of Bharat Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum are located;

(b) the storage capacity of each depot separately at present;

(c) whether the local people are being benefited by the above mentioned undertaking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The places in Karnataka having oil storage depots/terminals of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and the storage capacity of each depot are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) The oil storage depots at the above mentioned places in the State of Karnataka have ensured the availability of petroleum products of mass consumption nearer to the consumption zones. These depots also help in generating indirect employment through various ancilliary services.